

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-86 (*Canceled*)

87. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank, said method comprising:

providing a longitudinal glass tube,
providing a longitudinal mold having a flat sided polygonal shape,
positioning said longitudinal glass tube proximate said longitudinal mold,
heating said longitudinal glass tube,
applying a deforming fluid pressure to said heated longitudinal glass tube wherein
said glass tube deforms and conforms to said mold,
cooling said deformed glass tube to provide a flat sided polygonal shaped glass tube,
and
cutting a flat side from said flat sided polygonal shaped glass tube.

88. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a SiO₂ soot tube and consolidating the soot tube into a glass.

89. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes depositing SiO₂ soot on a support member.

90. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a silicon oxyfluoride glass tube.

91. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a glass tube comprised of silicon dioxide.

92. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a high purity fused silica glass tube.

93. *(Original)* A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, further comprising encompassing said glass tube with said mold and expanding said glass tube into contact with said mold.

94. *(Original)* A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, further comprising encompassing said mold with said glass tube and collapsing said glass tube onto said mold.

95 – 101 *(Canceled)*

102. *(Original)* A method of making a low OH silicon oxyfluoride glass blank said method comprising
providing a SiO₂ soot
exposing said soot to a chlorine containing atmosphere to remove OH from said soot
terminating exposure to said chlorine atmosphere
flushing residual chlorine from the soot
consolidating said soot into a silicon oxyfluoride glass having an OH level less than 1 ppm.

103. *(Original)* A method as claimed in claim 102 wherein flushing and consolidating comprises flushing and consolidating said soot in a He containing atmosphere.

104. *(Original)* A method as claimed in claim 102 wherein flushing and consolidating comprises flushing and consolidating said soot in a F containing atmosphere.